



The HOWLER



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SHELTER EXPANSION SLATED FOR NEAR FUTURE

By Penelope Kern
Seattle Animal Shelter Anti-Cruelty Team Co-Leader

You've most likely heard the adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

And being familiar with Seattle Animal Shelter, you'd probably think that it's one place where the saying would apply, since SAS is one of the most respected and innovative municipal animal welfare agencies in the nation. After all, SAS has a wonderful staff of caring animal control and animal care officers, over 250 foster care families, an aggressive adoption program and a nationally recognized volunteer program with over 600 dedicated volunteers serving the welfare of Seattle's homeless and orphaned animals. So what could there possibly be to fix? According to SAS Executive Director Don Jordan, there is room for improvement.

"We've grown from being 'the pound,' from being an agency focused mainly on public safety, to a community-based organization that has embraced the humane movement in terms of aggressive adoption programs, rehabilitation programs for sick and injured animals, as well as one that provides tremendous opportunity to the community to assist in building relation-

ships between people and pets. We're now more of a global organization, a service provider, an animal welfare organization in the true sense of the word," Jordan says. "And we've outgrown our building. It wasn't designed to accommodate what we've become."

Thus, Jordan has proposed a 4600-square-foot expansion of the present shelter facilities. The expansion would improve the current adoption, redemption and receiving areas, but the main focus of the proposed \$2 million project would be new facilities for the volunteer and foster care programs, enhancing services and programs provided to people and animals in Seattle.

The expansion would provide space for volunteers to meet and organize special events, such as the annual Furry 5K Fun Run and Walk and Guardian Angel Day, which raise money for the Help the Animals Fund. Regional animal welfare conferences and meetings could be held there, as could humane education classes for children and adults. It would also allow for indoor dog and cat obedience training and on-site adoption events.

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SEATTLE animal shelter

Seattle's shelter for homeless and lost and found pets is located on 15th Avenue West—one mile south of the Ballard Bridge.

HOURS

Tues–Sat: Noon–6 p.m.

Sun: Noon–4 p.m.

PHONE

(206) 386-PETS (7387)

WEB SITE

www.seattleanimalshelter.org

THANK YOU!

SEATTLE ANIMAL SHELTER – SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

By Don Jordan, Executive Director

Three decades ago, the Seattle Animal Shelter was a different place and Seattle was a much different community.

Over the last 31 years, the SAS has changed significantly and for the better. There was a time when the shelter did not have flourishing volunteer and foster care programs and we lacked the financial support of the community needed to rehabilitate sick, injured and abused orphaned animals.

Embracing the notion of becoming a “community based organization”, we quickly began to realize the tremendous contributions that volunteers play in our community. By early 1998, we began aggressive volunteer and foster care programs and I am so proud that in our 31st year, we have over 600 volunteers and foster parents working to improve the lives of orphaned animals in our care and that in the last 7 years, we have been so blessed to be the recipient of over \$700,000 dollars in donations from caring individuals to help improve animal welfare and reduce pet overpopulation in Seattle.

The Seattle Animal Shelter has been responsive to the needs of the community through such innovative approaches as the Domestic Violence Program, providing free temporary shelter for pets owned by victims of domestic violence; the Anti-Cruelty Program, aimed at educating the public about animal abuse; and the Pets for Seniors Program which provides a discount to senior citizens who adopt older cats.

As a result of the strong support of the Seattle Animal Shelter and to continue to be responsive to the needs of the community, the Seattle Animal Shelter is about to embark on a \$2 million dollar capital campaign to fund an expansion project at the Seattle Animal Shelter. This project entails a 4600-square-foot expansion of the present shelter facilities and would improve the current adoption, redemption and receiving areas, but the main focus of the proposed \$2 million project would be new facilities for the volunteer and foster care programs, which would enhance services and programs provided to people and animals in Seattle. The goal is to break ground in 2009.

Without the past and present support of animal lovers in our community, the Seattle Animal Shelter would never be able to even think of undertaking such a huge project. I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to our supporters who give so much of their time and provide the resources necessary to continue the life saving programs at the Seattle Animal Shelter.

Together, we are all making a difference in the lives of people and animals in our community.

SUCCESS!



Attached is a photo of Molly (case #3790) picked up as a stray in the field this past spring. Molly is an older cat, blind, and very sweet. When I took her as a foster, I figured nobody would want to adopt her and she would live out

her life at my house. However in the first few weeks that I had her, I received calls from several people interested in adopting her, and I chose the best one for Molly.

The woman who adopted Molly has a soft spot for older and special-needs animals and has the time and money to care for them. She remodeled her condo to accommodate Molly's age and disability, having a ramp built so that Molly can access the bed and a special window seat with a ramp where Molly can sit and enjoy the sunshine. Here is an excerpt from an email I received from the adopter:

"As I write this, Molly is on the corner of the bed. She is so sweet and frequently comes to me and meows to be loved and held. She sits on my lap in the AM while I work my crosswords. She sleeps with me on the bed at night - she comes up to my face for awhile and then back to the foot of the bed and by morning on a warm night she is on the window seat. Molly never minds squeaking out her needs. She sounds like a door that needs to be oiled. I cannot thank you enough for being such kind foster parents and for being able to part with her".

Gretchen Van Lom, foster parent

FLOWER & LULU

Flower and Lulu were adopted by Jean, a 78 year young senior. The photos show Flower and Lulu on their first day at their new home.

Jean calls them "the girls" and when people come to visit, she calls "Girls! We've got company!" and the kitties come running. In the unlikely event that the kitties outlive her, Jean has made a provision in her will that her daughter will take them. At the rate Jean is going, that's unlikely to happen!



MORE SUCCESS!



SPARKY

Growing up with a series of big dogs, Newfoundlands, Huskies etc, I dreamed of the day when I could adopt my own little big puppy. Given that I was living in a small house with my partner's older cat and even older border terrier, an energetic puppy, especially one that would grow to be around 100 pounds, was not really an option. So, I decided to volunteer at the shelter in order to spend time with all the dogs out there and share my love that way.

I attended the summer volunteer orientation and realized that the programs for young healthy dogs were pretty well stocked. Where I noticed a real hole, though, was the foster program. The idea of an older dog living in the shelter broke my heart. I

thought of my partner's 14-year old terrier, Nest, spending the night in a kennel, and I knew I had found my place.

I spoke to the foster coordinator that night and just a few days later I was at the shelter to get my new foster dog. The dog she introduced me to was nothing like my foster dog vision. I thought maybe I'd get a stately old lab, with a little gray around the nose. Here was a dirty, old, blind and deaf cocker spaniel with a nasty ear infection and a horrible skin condition, named Sparky of all things.

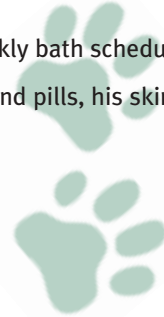
For those first few days, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. I couldn't think of who in the world would want to adopt this dog and worried I'd be stuck with him. He had no energy, no spark, shall we say.

We made a trip to the vet (paid for by the HTAF) and came home with a bag of medication and a weekly bath schedule.

Soon Sparky started to perk up. His smelly ear infection cleared up, and after lots of baths, salves, and pills, his skin infection got better. He even started to look kind of cute! He and Nest got along great.

What can I say? I fell in love.

Sparky now has a nice soft bed, good food, a great coat, and all the love in the world.



DAKOTA

Dakota came into the shelter and was hit by a car. She then went to foster care to recover from a fractured pelvis which was paid for by the Help the Animals Fund. Her new adopters have reported that Dakota is an amazing dog and definitely a success story. They have taken her for obedience training, where she has done really well. She comes immediately when called; she does not chase cats anymore; she is an avid swimmer and hiker; she is a great companion, and a loyal family friend. She now loves to play with the kids at the park. I have to admit, though, she is a bit of a junk food dog: she loves animal cookies and sugar pops.

Have a glorious day

Dan, Laura, Jessy and Dakota



SUCCESS!

They were kept in a wooden crate outside, fed only celery and leftovers. They were also kept under a crate of ducks so they were filthy. They were treated for Coccidia (thanks to HTAF). (Ducks came to the shelter & were adopted out as well).

Most of the others have already been adopted, but these cuties aren't available until December when they're old enough. They're friendly, happy and will make great pets.

Deb Phelan, Volunteer

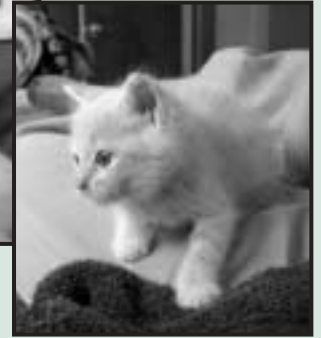


HUEY

Huey came to the shelter as a very shy, timid stray. It appeared he had had no training or attention. He was sent into foster care to learn the ropes. Turns out Huey was a real snuggler!!

After a few months, the foster care line got a call from a couple who were truck drivers. They lived in Idaho and did a run between Seattle and California. They wanted a dog who could go in the truck with them and be a companion. They came over to meet Huey and immediately fell in love. Huey has become quite the trucker: he rides well on the seat, snuggles on the king size bed in the back, and is learning to drink from a straw!! His adoptive mom reports that he is a big friendly goof who charms everyone – here's what she has to say.

"Huey is doing REALLY well. He gets in and out of the truck all on his own now (Thank God, he is heavy!). He will raise his paw to "say please" for goodies. He is quite the clown and keeps us laughing. He's doing VERY well in the truck. He doesn't like it when anybody gets too close to it (already protective of it!). Truth be known if someone got in, he would just play with them.



PIGGY & JANIS

Animal Control Field Officer Don Baxter brought in these two itty bitty kitties. They were found under a porch, and they were totally filthy. We washed them off and they were so dirty and flea-bitten that the water coming off them was rusty from dissolving flea dirt. They were given a tiny bit of Advantage, a good going-over with a flea comb, and some food. They're doing very well. The buff colored boy is named "Piggy" because he eats like it's his last chance, and the girl tabby is "Janis" as in Joplin because of one really long, loud howl she emitted while snuggling right under my ear. They're both learning to play; and are getting to know the other creatures in the house.

They might already have a happy ending in store: the woman who found them has contacted me and wants to adopt them.

Becky Todd, Foster Parent

We are really enjoying him. We have had him with other dogs, and he did great. Cat's he doesn't care about cats, unless they run. We even had him around a little kid, and he just wanted to play. Thank you for allowing us to adopt him! He is a wonderful addition to our family, and we love him."

Lisa & Mike – adoptive parents (truckers)



SEATTLE ANIMAL SHELTER PET TAG ENGRAVING MACHINE

by Carrie Valderas

The Seattle Animal Shelter in July announced the arrival of a pet tag engraving machine. Personalized pet tags have long been requested at the shelter by adopters, licensing customers, and, of course, the employees of the shelter. The idea of an engraving machine at the shelter is not new -- it had been brought up for several years as a way to bring in money for the animals and as a service for our customers. But it took the enthusiasm of a new employee to get it going in full force. After a shelter-wide day retreat suggestion sparked the idea, I assigned myself the task of finding an engraving machine suitable for the shelter. I knew that the machine would have to be compact enough to fit in the lobby of the Pet Licensing office, and also be relatively low in cost.

A table-top machine was found through research on the internet and purchased shortly thereafter with the proceeds of the tags going to the Help the Animals Fund. An initial order of 300 tags was made along with the machine to see how well it would work out. Flyers were printed out and distributed to shelter volunteers and a posting was made on the City's InWeb. After its

initial advertising, flyers were also made for distribution to shelter patrons and a posting was then made on the shelter's web site (www.seattleanimalshelter.org). The success of the machine has already shown - a reorder of tags had to be made just three months after installation and the machine is halfway to being paid off! The machine engraves on both the front and back of each tag with most tags holding a minimum of four lines per side. The tags are made from a light-weight aluminum, which works well for dogs and cats of all sizes.

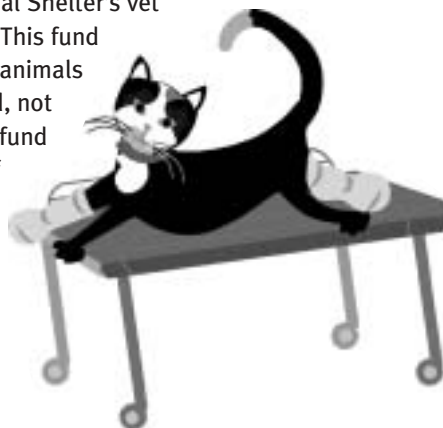
Tags come in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes to suit every pet's personality and cost \$6.00 or \$8.00 depending on the style you choose. If you are interested in purchasing one (or more!), please call (206) 386-4262 during business hours or email carrie.valderas@seattle.gov.



DONATIONS HELP STRAY AND INJURED ORPHANS RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT!

The Seattle Animal Shelter established the **Help the Animals Fund** in 1977 so the shelter animals could be given a second chance to find new loving homes and families. Before, the shelter did not have the funds to provide veterinary care for the many animals that desperately needed medical attention.

The **Help the Animals Fund** covers veterinary expenses when an animal is brought to the shelter suffering from injury, malnutrition, upper respiratory ailment, or other illnesses. In 2000, alone, the Seattle Animal Shelter's vet expenses totaled over \$90,000. This fund makes it possible for all shelter animals to receive the vet care they need, not just a chosen few. However, the fund relies solely on the donations of generous individuals and companies, such as you! All donations to the fund are 100% tax deductible.



Expenses Paid for Veterinary Care

Antibiotics	9,368.00
Fluids	10,112.00
Ear Care	6,115.00
Eye Care	6,074.00
Exams	29,330.00
Orthopedic Surgery	4,300.00
Pain Medications	6,128.00
X-Rays	5,669.00
Other Services	6,704.00
Total	83,800.00

August 2002- August 2003

If you wish to make a donation to this life-saving fund, please do so by using the enclosed envelope. Many sick and orphaned animals will appreciate your generous donation.

ANTI CRUELTY STORY

JACK— AM I A “WAR DOG” OR A “CUPCAKE”?

(Well, I am some of both) By Christine Titus, Anti Cruelty co-Team Leader



I remember the afternoon he was brought into the shelter by a field officer. He was just skin and bones, and completely covered in mud; spirit broken. Because of his condition, it was difficult to determine his breed.

As I stood in front of his cage, my heart just ached for this badly abused animal. What a mess he was. I wondered, “What kind of a person would do this to their dog”? It wasn’t hard to figure out why he was at the shelter. He was emaciated from not being consistently fed

over a long period of time. His owner soon tried to redeem him, but I was pleased when the shelter Director said, “No, he’s in pretty bad shape and we are not going to release him to you”. That was in January of 2002.

Eventually the details of his cruelty case came to light. His owner had kept him tied up on a short chain in a very small enclosure, and there had been several reports of the tormented creature barking incessantly. I’m certain that these were his cries for help. The picture gives you a glimpse at the hellish life the dog endured. He had been left to linger in a muddy area filled with urine and feces, and with no food or water.

Initially his behavior was neurotic while at the shelter. He would chew on the wire of his run until his lip bled, and he developed a large growth on his gum. Jack would bark aggressively at anything he perceived as dangerous, and that was most things. As he put on weight, he began to look like a German Shepherd mix however, he lacked that Shepherd confidence. He’d constantly spin in circles in his run, which is a trait of many German Shepherds confined to small enclosed areas. He frequently seemed depressed, with sad eyes. But wait; don’t you be sad, because this story has a happy ending!

After several months I just couldn’t bear to see his unhappiness any longer. A long time shelter volunteer with excellent dog handling skills, and I started to work with him, and slowly we discovered that underneath that calloused exterior was an undernourished spirit who slowly began to trust humans.

We would touch him gently but he was unsure of how to react to affection. He was “hand shy” from being hit in the past. Kind of makes you sick, doesn’t it? He was given baths and he slowly became accustomed to shelter life. It is sad, but life at the shelter was better than any place he had previously lived. Like all shelter dogs, he was fed twice a day, and given clean water and a blanket. He began to receive regular obedience training, and he really enjoyed being outside. He loved the smells, his eyes brightened, his gait was “bouncy”, and he loved to run. He loped, like a horse in full gallop. One of the volunteers affectionately called him “war dog”, because of his strong desire to protect his handlers from “danger”. The more attention he received the more calm and peaceful he became. He adopted the staff and volunteers at the shelter as his pack. He responded playfully to those who showed him affection. This included licking people’s faces.

His owner was eventually convicted of animal cruelty, and a loving family then adopted Jack. He goes for frequent walks and runs in a large park, and to obedience classes conducted by a professional police dog trainer. He now weighs over 80 pounds, which is about 40 pounds more than when he arrived at the shelter. He has blossomed into a healthy, strong and loving dog. Jack is now affectionately called “cupcake” at times.

I know I promised that this story would have a happy ending, however, there is more discouraging news. There are a lot of dogs in the Seattle area that are suffering from the same cruel treatment as Jack endured. Please start another story with a happy ending by calling 206-386-PETS to report cruelty. You may end up having your face licked by another grateful dog.



FURRY 5 K NET\$ RECORD AMOUNT

By Deborah Moore

On a beautiful day in June, over 2400 people brought 946 dogs and one cat to Seward Park for a singular purpose—to participate in the Furry 5k. The one-of-a-kind run/walk organized by Seattle Animal Control and its generous sponsors, this year sponsors included KBSG Oldies 97.3, Talking Rain, Ped, Clif, Eukanuba, Jamba Juice, Animal Emergency & Referral Center, Petco, PJ's Paws and Claws, Taco Del Mar, Three Dog Bakery, Great Harvest Bread Company, Cloud Star, Animal Surgical Clinic of Seattle, Milk-Bone Brand, The Bon Marche', Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA), Studio 904 Salon, MyoVision, Greenies, Avtech, Barrier, Wright Runstad & Company, Woolly Mammoth, Aurora Vet Hospital, Curves of Magnolia, Metro Dog, Tails of the City, The Dog Zone, Nintendo, Kiehl's, Seattle Running Company, The Mountaineers Club, Chuck It!, Railey's Leash and Treat, Kenmore Air, Grand Central Bakery, Montrail, Emerald Downs, Essenza, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Rub a Dub Dog, Tea House Choice Teas, Downtown Dog Lounge, Canine Behavior Center, Seattle Opera, Greenlake Animal Hospital, 2 Dogs + A Cat, Pet Elegance Bath House & Boutique, Premier, Dog's Day Out, Two Dog Yoga Studio, Landmark Theaters, VanPak, Seattle Cooks,



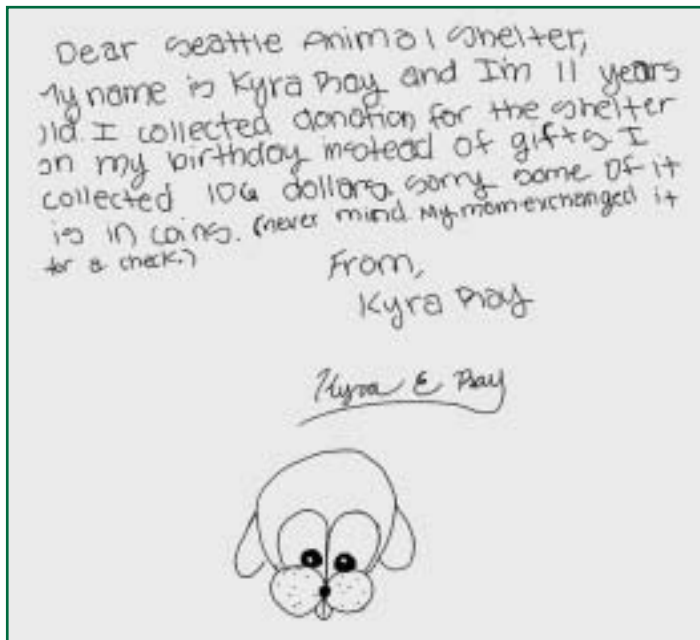
Hullabaloo Books, Day of Doggie Beauty, Seattle Mariners, Seattle Storm, Sports Etc and Northwest Runner, raised over \$68,000 for the "Help the Animals Fund." The Furry 5k is the Seattle Animal Shelter's premier fund-raising event, and the large number of dollars generated means extra love and care for the cats and dogs who find safe haven at the Shelter while waiting for their new families to take them home.

Money raised during the Furry 5k, now in its fourth year, is utilized for a variety of purposes, all critical to the health and well being of the animals housed at the Shelter.

Contributions are used to pay for extensive medical care associated with rehabilitating sick and injured animals, providing extraordinary veterinary care for animals that have been subject to cruelty, purchasing toys and treats for animals at the shelter, providing animal carriers for low income or elderly persons, and developing public education videos or advertisements that promote responsible pet ownership.

Without the money raised each year through the Furry 5k, these necessary "extras" would simply not be possible. The sponsors, vendors, volunteers and race participants are critical to the success of the "Help the Animals Fund" and to the health of each and every animal that finds itself at the Shelter.

If our orphans could speak for themselves, we feel confident that they would say "Thank you for your generosity, your time and your love."



Letter from a young supporter

For upcoming events visit our web site
and click on Calendar of Events at
www.seattleanimalshelter.org

THANKS!

On Behalf of the Animals

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of the HOWELR. Special thanks to SAS volunteer Barbara Crummins for her design and layout. SAS Commissioner, Gordon Leighton, contributions as editor are greatly appreciated.

Shelter expansion, continued from page 1...

Plus, the new space would be disaster-ready to house an overflow of shelter animals should the need arise.

“The sky’s the limit in terms of what we could do if we were to expand the shelter,” says Jordan. “People could have children’s birthday parties there, replete with animal care education and a tour of the shelter, possibly in exchange for a donation to the Help the Animals Fund. For foster care and adoption events, the expansion would provide a more sanitary, less stressful environment, since the additions air system wouldn’t be intermingled with the shelter population’s air system. The possibilities are endless! And it would also improve our customer service, since the animal intake and adoption areas would be expanded, providing for more one-on-one interaction between shelter animals and potential adopters.”

Animal Care Supervisor Virginia Dalton feels that the shelter expansion would allow SAS to get more involved in public education, such as humane education, pet obedience classes and first aid, which in turn, would decrease the number of pet surrenders the shelter sees.

“The expansion would help us go much deeper into public education, so we would be able to assist pet guardians with behavioral issues, preventing them from dumping their pets, which would greatly reduce the number of animals we see coming into the shelter,” Dalton says. “We’d no longer have to be a last resort. The expansion would allow us to be proactive, to help people turn their pets into real family members.”

The shelter hasn’t changed much from when it was built in 1982, when the focus of Seattle Animal Control was on public safety as it related to animals, rather than on adoption and rehabilitation of companion animals. In 1996, under new leadership, the focus of SAS switched to animal welfare rather than merely “animal control,” and since 1996, adoptions have increased from 1339 to 3098 in 2002. That increase can be largely credited to the extraordinary volunteer program, designed and led by Volunteer Programs Coordinator Christine Titus. In 2002 alone, 600 volunteers donated more than 80 thousand hours of service, the equivalent of 38 full-time employees.

But the size of the building hasn’t kept pace with the rapid evolution of the SAS volunteer program. The currently antiquated and increasingly crowded facility doesn’t provide adequate meeting space, and there’s no room for volunteer training sessions, volunteer orientations for potential newcomers, fundraising activities or other related activities. Many activities must be held off-site, away from the shelter those activities support.

“Simply put, we’ve just grown past what the present shelter can accommodate,” says Titus, a dynamic, innovative leader for Seattle’s animal welfare cause. “If the expansion does happen, we will be able to hold many more events right here.”

The expansion project, slated for 2009, would add a new building adjacent to and connected with the current shelter at 2061 15th Ave. West. It would be built over the existing parking lot, adjacent to the ground floor of the shelter, creating 4600 square feet of meeting and activity space. The conceptual design, which was approved by the Seattle Design Commission in May 2002, would also enlarge the currently cramped animal receiving and adoption areas on the first floor of the shelter by framing in the existing breezeway. The existing parking lot would be retained as a first-level parking garage.

“It’s important to note that construction would be funded 100 percent by community contributions. Our agreement with the City is that we will not break ground until we’ve raised all of the estimated construction costs in today’s dollars,” says Executive Director Jordan. “This reduces any risks to the tax payers. There’s an ordinance to set up a fund, which states that if this project were not to happen, or if there were any remaining funds after completion, then that money would be diverted to the Help the Animals Fund. But we’re very excited and optimistic, and we think it’s a realistic goal. After all, since 1996, the community has given more than \$700 thousand to SAS through donations and bequests. And we also receive support from corporations such as Bartell Drugs, Petco and Petsmart – and that’s indicative of the community’s high level of enthusiasm for SAS.”

Donations to the Shelter Expansion Fund are tax deductible (but please consult your financial adviser) and may be made payable to the Shelter Expansion Fund and sent to 2061 15th Avenue West, Seattle.

FURRY K RACE

FIGHTING ANIMAL ABUSE

SUCCESS STORIES

SHELTER EXPANSION

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